Catalogue no. 89-627-XIE — No. 2
ISSN 1914-6450
ISBN 978-0-662-46726-7

Analytical Paper

Inuit in Canada: Findings from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey - Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

The Health of Inuit Children: Fact Sheet

2001

by Anne Guèvremont and Dafna Kohen

Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division
7th Floor, Jean Talon Building, Ottawa, K1A 0T6

Telephone: 613-951-5979

2001
Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

How to obtain more information

Specific inquiries about this product and related statistics or services should be directed to: Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0T6 (telephone: 613-951-5979).

For information about this product or the wide range of services and data available from Statistics Canada, visit our website at www.statcan.ca or contact us by e-mail at infostats@statcan.ca or by phone from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday at:

Toll-free telephone (Canada and the United States):

Inquiries line	1-800-263-1136
National telecommunications device for the hearing impaired	1-800-363-7629
Fax line	1-877-287-4369
Depository Services Program inquiries line	1-800-635-7943
Depository Services Program fax line	1-800-565-7757

Statistics Canada national contact centre:	1-613-951-8116
Fax line	1-613-951-0581

Information to access the product

This product, catalogue no. 89-627-XIE, is available for free in electronic format. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at www.statcan.ca and select Publications.

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, the Agency has developed standards of service which its employees observe in serving its clients. To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.ca under About us > Providing services to Canadians.

2008-02982/

Statistics Canada
Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division

Inuit in Canada: Findings from the Aboriginal Peoples Survey - Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic

The Health of Inuit Children: Fact Sheet

2001

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada

© Minister of Industry, 2007

All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

September 2007

Catalogue no. 89-627-XIE
ISSN 1914-6450
ISBN 978-0-662-46726-7

Frequency: occasional

Ottawa

La version française de cette publication est disponible sur demande (nº 89-627-XIF au catalogue).

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p}	preliminary
^{r}	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E}	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

Table of contents

Page

The Health of Inuit Children 6
Health status 6
Chronic conditions 6
Contact with health care professionals 6
Dental Care 7
Breastfeeding 7
Breakfast 8

The Health of Inuit Children

Health status

2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

- In 2001, the majority (79%) of Inuit children 0 to 14 years of age were rated as being in excellent or very good health. This was lower than the average (87%) for all children in Canada[1].
- Inuit children in Labrador (83%) and the Inuvialuit region (81%) were more likely than Inuit children in both Nunavut (76%) and Nunavik (73%) to be rated as being in excellent or very good health.

Chronic conditions

- Inuit children were less likely than other Aboriginal children to report a chronic condition. About one-third of Inuit children had been diagnosed with a chronic condition. Ear infections or ear problems topped the list at 11%. However, since access to health care professionals is more limited in the Arctic, the rate of diagnosed chronic conditions could be under estimated.

Contact with health care professionals

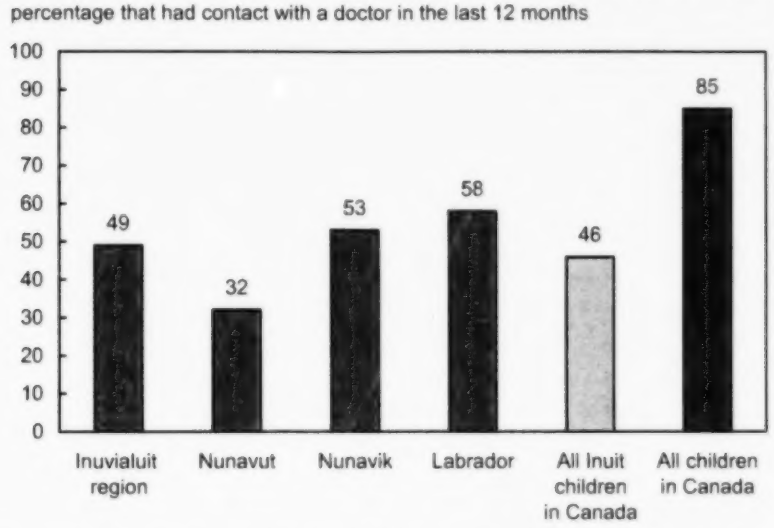
Doctors rarely work in Inuit communities on a regular basis. Medical emergencies require evacuation to southern hospitals and many Inuit are sent to the South for appointments with medical specialists, diagnosis and treatments. Inuit communities have health centers staffed by at least one nurse, and this is usually the first point of contact for most Inuit children with the medical system.

- Consequently, in 2001, Inuit children were far less likely (46%) than all children in Canada (85%) to have had contact with a doctor. They were almost two and half times more likely than all children in Canada to have seen a nurse.
- Inuit children in Nunavik and Labrador were more likely than those in the Inuvialuit region, and almost twice as likely as children in Nunavut, to have had contact with a doctor.

1. For this Fact Sheet the term "all children in Canada" is used to refer to data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY). Excluded are children living in the territories. However, some Inuit children living elsewhere in Canada may be included here.

Chart 1

Inuit children were less likely to have had contact with a doctor in the last 12 months (family physician, pediatrician or other specialist) compared to all children in Canada



Sources: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2001; National Longitudinal Study of Children and Youth, 2000.

Dental Care

Most Inuit communities do not have a resident dentist, although dentists from southern Canada fly into remote communities throughout the year. As a result, only the most serious dental issues get treated upon a dentist's visit. In dental emergencies, Inuit are evacuated by air to the South for treatment. Trips south are also required for consultation with dental specialists.

- In 2001, Inuit children 2 to14 years old received dental treatment less often than all children in Canada.
- Inuit children in Labrador, the Inuvialuit region, and Nunavik received dental care significantly more often than children from Nunavut.
- Approximately a quarter of Inuit children from Nunavut, Nunavik and the Inuvialuit region, and significantly more from Labrador were reported to be in need of dental care.
- Almost half of the Inuit respondents in need of dental care reported lack of access as the primary reason they did not have an appointment.

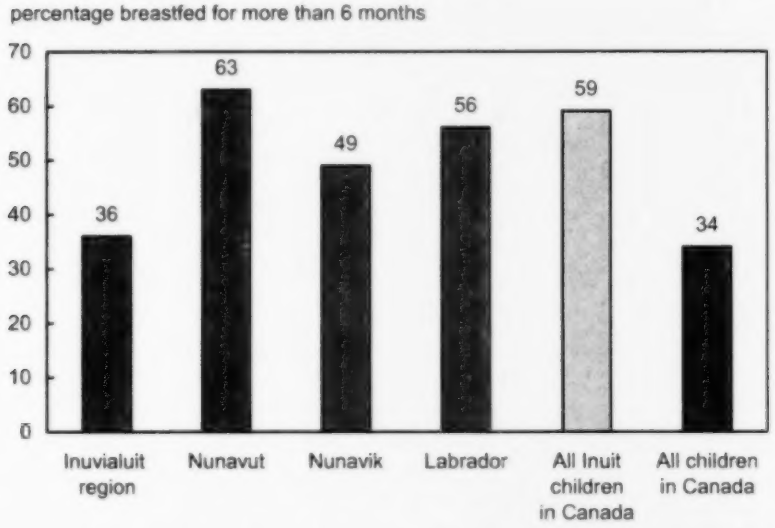
Breastfeeding

According to The Public Health Agency of Canada, breastfeeding is the best way to provide healthy food for the growth and development of infants.

- Inuit children were less likely than all children in Canada to be breastfed. However, when Inuit children were breastfed it was for a longer period of time.

- The proportion of Inuit children who were breastfed for more than 6 months was higher than the national average in three of the four Inuit regions (Nunavut, Nunavik and Labrador).

Chart 2
Inuit children who were breastfed were more likely to be breastfed for more than six months compared to all children in Canada



Sources: Statistics Canada, Aboriginal Peoples Survey, 2001, and Health Canada, 2004.

Breakfast

The Dieticians of Canada recommend that all children start their day with a good breakfast. Children who eat breakfast perform better at school, have healthier weights, and eat more essential nutrients.

- When compared with similar data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, it was found that Inuit children 12 to14 years of age reported eating breakfast just as often as all children in Canada.
- In 2001, most Inuit children 6 to14 years of age (82%) reported eating breakfast 5 to 7 days a week.
- Children from the Inuvialuit region and Nunavik reported eating breakfast more often than children from Nunavut and Labrador.

About this report

This Inuit fact sheet is one in a series based on data from the 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS). This report is a joint publication between The Social and Aboriginal Statistics Division and The Health Information and Research Division at Statistics Canada, as well as the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. For more information, see the report entitled: The Health of Inuit Children: Report.
http://www.statcan.ca/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=89-627-X2007003

Unless otherwise stated, data are for children aged 0 to14. Information for Inuit children was gathered from the "person most knowledgeable" (PMK) about the child. In most cases the PMK was the birth parent (mother or father), but it could also have been a grandparent, an aunt or an uncle.

For this report, Inuit children were those who had Inuit identity along with those who had Inuit identity combined with North American Indian or Métis identity.

The Canadian Arctic refers to the four Inuit regions where the majority of Inuit live 1) the northern coastal region of Labrador; 2) Nunavik in northern Quebec; 3) the territory of Nunavut; 4) the Inuvialuit region in the Northwest Territories.

For this fact sheet, "Labrador" consists of Rigolet, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Makkovik, Nain and Postville. (This makes it different from the Nunatsiavut region, which excludes Happy Valley-Goose Bay and includes Hopedale). The Inuvialuit region consists of the following communities: Inuvik, Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok (Holman) and Tuktoyaktuk.

Artist Information
Alootook Ipellie was born in a hunting camp on the north coast of Frobisher Bay in the Northwest Territories. He grew up in Iqaluit (formerly Frobisher Bay), and had a multifaceted career in the fine arts. As a graphic artist, cartoonist, photographer and writer, he contributed to many Inuit publications in the Canadian Arctic until his passing in September 2007.